

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1254

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dale Kelley on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-five years of dedication to the sport of basketball, Dale Kelley will be taking a much deserved retirement from his duties as the men's basketball officiating coordinator for the Big 12 Conference, Conference USA, the Sun Belt Conference, the Ohio Valley Conference, and the Southland Conference at the end of the 2009-2010 basketball season; and

WHEREAS, as the basketball coordinator for sixty-one universities, each season Mr. Kelley contracts and assigns a roster of 245 referees to nearly 1,400 games across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dale Kelley, who also serves as Mayor of Huntingdon, Tennessee, began his officiating career in 1965 at the high school level, officiating basketball and baseball for seven years, including two girls' state basketball tournaments and one boys' state tournament; and

WHEREAS, as an on-court college official, Mr. Kelley served for fourteen years in the Southeastern Conference, Ohio Valley Conference, Southwest Conference, Metro Conference, and Sun Belt Conference; and

WHEREAS, he also worked nine consecutive NCAA Tournaments and was selected to officiate in three Final Fours: 1978, 1980, and 1981; in the 1981 Final Four, Dale Kelley served as an official during current Florida International University Head Coach Isiah Thomas's run to the national championship with Indiana University; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Mr. Kelley began his estimable tenure as officials' coordinator, in which position he has been responsible for administering the selection and assignment of officials, while also observing and evaluating the referees; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he has overseen officials from the Western Athletic Conference and the Metro Conference during his time as a coordinator; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Bethel College (now University), Dale Kelley was a star player on both the basketball and baseball teams; in recognition of his singular achievements in athletics, he was inducted into the Bethel College Sports Hall of Fame in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly was also recognized for his many years of service as an athletic official by his induction into the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame in 1998; in 2002, he was inducted into the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2003, he was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Dale Kelley received an appointment by House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Commission; his service on this commission continued with a re-appointment by Speaker Naifeh in 2007; and

WHEREAS, throughout his time as an on-court official and conference coordinator, Mr. Kelley has been the very epitome of a concerned civic leader; currently serving his fifth consecutive four-year term as Mayor of Huntingdon, he has also estimably served his fellow citizens as a member of the Carroll County Commission and Huntingdon City Council, Carroll County Assessor of Property, member of the Huntingdon Special School District Board and Chairman of the Carroll County Vocational Technical School Board and the Huntingdon Industrial Development Board; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his success as a businessman and a basketball official and his exemplary service to his community, Dale Kelley also served the good people of the State of Tennessee with acumen, dedication, and industry as a member of the House of Representatives during the 91st, 92nd, and 93rd General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, during his six-year tenure on Capitol Hill, Mr. Kelley proved to be an exceptionally gifted and devoted legislator whose primary concerns were always to listen carefully to his constituents and to act in the best interests of the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, under Governor Lamar Alexander, he astutely served his fellow citizens as Commissioner of both the Department of Employment Security and the Department of Transportation, utilizing his singular talents to ensure good and responsible government for the state, and, in 1986, he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education; and

WHEREAS, throughout his remarkable tenure of public service, Mr. Kelley remained dedicated to his athletic career and to teaching the game of basketball; he has supervised numerous basketball camps and clinics over the years, and his dedication to the officiating world can only be categorized as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dale Kelley is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his wife, Carlene, and their three children, Amanda Wallace, Meredith Surber, and Cliff Kelley; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend this exemplary public and athletic official; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Dale Kelley our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.